

There isn't enough voluntary service rendered in this country - you know what I mean, service without pay. And yet if even the country was in need of voluntary service it is now. And the place where it is most needed is in the field of education. Of course, there is the view that the Government must provide all that is wanted and Govt. must pay all those who help to provide what is needed. But this is extremely costly and not at all in tune with what an undeveloped country can afford. Here one sees the old mentality at work, the feeling that Govt. owes us everything and that we must make it pay to the last cent, so that if any extra services are needed let Govt. provide them. Or there is the other view - the view of the man who says "I will not give something for nothing, my time is too valuable. People must learn to pay for worthwhile things", and that's the end of it. So that if there's anything extra to be done let the next man do it. The trouble with this sort of thing is ^{that it is} a very short-sighted way of building a sound society, and it certainly isn't the way some of the more advanced countries in the world build themselves up. Those very countries whose technological advancement we want to imitate. You have only got to take a superficial look of British history in the 19th century to see how much voluntary effort achieved. Those were the bad old days of capitalism and the working class had to struggle hands on knees for the slightest improvement. And what do you find? You find men with initiative and vision founding ~~forming~~ voluntary improvement societies for the workers. You find men like Arnold and Ruskin and religious leaders like F.D. Manrice founding institutes for ~~much~~ ^{mechanics} and extra-mural Colleges when tuition ~~was~~ ^{fees} ~~first~~ ^{Just} nominal. Up to now in Britain even though the welfare state has taken over so much of what voluntary work used to do, there are still considerable numbers of ~~proper~~ people who give up their leisure time to valuable social work.

Now in this country there are voluntary workers, but there are too few. to really make the sort of impact desired. And many of our well trained people behave as if it is their absolute right to live the same sort of comfortable life lived by their opposite numbers in the more developed countries - the leisure time must be strictly their own. But societies like this cannot afford this sort of attitude. Professional men in a country like this cannot expect the same sort of life as their opposite numbers in Britain because our working classes do not have the same standard of life as those in Britain. You frequently hear people complain that "Today everything is politics". "Yes", they say, "The politicians are running

may paper 2: 200/10 - 100
.p. 2ef

-2-

evening classes, seminars, ideological insemination classes," - and so on. But good luck to them if they do this - after all, if ^{there} ~~there~~ are not many people in the field, then what they are attempting to do answers a real need. But back comes the answer, "They are not educating people but propagandising them." Well, if you don't want education and propaganda closely intertwined then the answer ^{is} ~~is~~ for groups of well trained people to form themselves into non-paying associations and do some educative work for the community. In particular, I should expect to see the influential members of the various religious communities putting in their hands and getting down to making a non-sectarian contribution to the community. That is why I welcome the news that a series of seminars are being held by a group of Churchmen to examine how Christians can play a more dynamic and less partisan ^{role} ~~look~~ in the country. This sort of thing may not solve our problems ~~by~~ but they will go a long way to bringing members of the community close to each other. One would hope to see a number of evening centres mushrooming over the country, devoted to educating people in various skills, and staffed by qualified people giving their time free. When this happens in an increasing way you will then know that our middle class has begun to understand what it means to live in an emergent territory.
